

Rusts and smuts

Veronica rust

Pathogen: *Puccinia veronicae-longifoliae*.

Hosts: *Veronica longifolia* and *V. spicata*.

Symptoms: Bronze, purplish overcast on the upper surface of infected foliage. Raised, reddish brown pustules on the underside of foliage. When disease is severe, significant foliar blighting occurs.



Mike Bryan, MDA

Spread: This disease was unintentionally introduced to Michigan in 2004 and was found again in 2005. The



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Raised rust pustules on the underside of a Veronica leaf.

Veronica rust – *continued*

disease occurred on field-grown *Veronica*. To date it has been a problem in very few nurseries. Long- distance disease spread is thought to occur when infected propagation material is moved. Spores, produced on foliage, are carried by wind currents.

Management: Carefully inspect incoming plant material for signs of rust; pay particular attention to material that originated offshore. Plants with rust pustules or other disease symptoms should be destroyed. Fungicide applications are needed for disease control in some situations. Resistance development is a concern – follow recommended fungicide resistance management strategies.



Foliar blighting of field-grown *Veronica* caused by rust.